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17 December 2003

SYR42262.E

Syria: Procedures followed by government authorities for calling a person to military service, including the documents that are issued and the name of the government offices/authorities involved
Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

Citing a *New York Times* article, the Al Bawaba Group's Middle East information Website and the *Jerusalem Post* both reported that due to Israel's air strikes on Syrian soil, Syria initiated a call-up of 300,000 reserve soldiers (Al Bawaba 13 Oct. 2003; *Jerusalem Post* 15 Oct. 2003).

Information on the procedures followed by government authorities when calling a person to military service, including the documents that are issued and the name of the government offices or authorities involved, could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

References

Al Bawaba, Amman, Jordan and London. 13 October 2003. "Report: Syria Recruiting Reserve Soldiers Following Tensions with Israel." (Dialog)

Jerusalem Post. 15 October 2003. Arie O'Sullivan. "Syria's Reservist Call-Up 'Not True'." (Dialog)

Additional Sources Consulted

Although willing to assist, the Embassy of the Syrian Arab Republic, in Ottawa, could not provide the requested information within time constraints without consulting the relevant authorities in Syria.

Defense and Foreign Affairs Handbook. 2002. 15th ed.

Europa World Year Book 2002

IRB Databases

A Researcher from the Dayan Center for Middle Eastern Studies did not respond to a letter requesting information.

WNC/Dialog

Internet sites, including:

Al Bawaba

Amnesty International

AsylumLaw.org

BBC

Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2002

European Country of Origin Information Network (ECOI)

GlobalSecurity.org

Human Rights Watch (HRW)

The Middle East Network Information Center (MENIC)

Middle East Review of International Affairs (MERIA)

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Second periodic report of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Human Rights Committee under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. 25 August 2000.

Syria Gate

SyriaLive.net

Syrian Arab Republic, Ministry of Information

Syrian Human Rights Committee (SHRC)

Syria Online

United Kingdom, Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND)

War Resisters' International

World Factbook 2003

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